



European Communities
Commission
Press Release

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E U R O N E T

Collaboration between the Commission and the Postal Administrations of
the Community to establish a European data-transmission network

On the proposal of the Commission of the European Communities, the postal administrations in the Community have agreed to set up and run the first European data-transmission network (EURONET). The first meeting of the Consortium of the nine national postal administrations was held on February 6, 1976, in Paris. This marked the commendably rapid entry into force of the outline agreement concluded in December 1975 between the European Commission and the Consortium, the President of which will come from the French postal administration.

The EURONET telecommunications network has been specially designed to meet the requirements in the way of scientific and technical information of some 700 research centres, industrial firms in advanced technology sectors and public bodies at national and Community level equipped with terminals. EURONET can form the nucleus for a vast future public data-transmission network in Europe.

Plans are that EURONET will become operational in June 1977; it will have four nodal switching centres in Rome, Frankfurt-on-Main, Paris and London, four concentrators in Brussels, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Dublin and local access facilities in Luxembourg, where the Commission's Computer Centre is situated. This Centre will be connected to the network, thus making its own data bases available and being able to consult the other data bases in the network.

As soon as it enters into service, EURONET will give access, with response times of 3 seconds and at very reasonable charges, to more than 20 data files containing physical, chemical, aerospace, energy, nuclear and metallurgical data and also medical, agricultural, economic, statistical and legal information.

The agreement with the postal administrations is a European "first": it is the first example in Europe of a data-transmission network using a single switching technology and the same software, together with standardized or compatible hardware.

The EURONET operation is a milestone in the attainment of the objectives set up by the Council of Ministers of the European Community when it decided on March 18, 1975, to launch an initial plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information. The commissioning of EURONET will thus mark the birth of the first concerted Community policy on data processing, designed to create an open and competitive market and to promote an efficient European computer industry.

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